

My First Love

Your eyes caught my interest,
Dazzling me with every look,
Igniting the attraction I feel to the fullest.

Your lips complete the mystique
And your adorable face,
To let me know you're truly unique.

Both only make me wonder about you
From across the room,
But definitely entice me to begin a conversation or two.

Creating a sweet nothing
And overcoming the sweaty palms,
Introduction is still slurred with my constant stuttering.

Suggesting a time and place
In hopes of a possible date,
I picture the idea of being in your embrace.

After the first meeting
Laughing and flirting,
We slowly come closer and end up kissing.

Your smooth skin and soft hands give me chills
Like a roller coaster ride,
Each one provides the most powerful thrills.

With baseball and college keeping me stressed
Day in and day out,
The way you treat me keeps my mind at rest.

Your delightful smile, your devilish smirk,
Especially your little giggles,
Remind me everyday that our bond is worth the work.

2008 Grade 12 Poem #1
Annotated

title attempts
to narrow
purpose (e.g. "My First Love"
instead of
"Love")

My First Love

Your eyes caught my interest,
Dazzling me with every look,
Igniting the attraction I feel to the fullest.

awkward use
of language

attempts at
chronology

past
present

Your lips complete the mystique
And your adorable face,
To let me know you're truly unique.

Examples of
forced
rhyme
contribute
to lapses
in focus

many examples
of sound
devices within
poem

assonance

Both only make me wonder about you
From across the room,
But definitely entice me to begin a conversation or two.

attempt at more
effective use of
near rhyme

Creating a sweet nothing
And overcoming the sweaty palms,
Introduction is still shurred with my constant stuttering.

alliteration

Suggesting a time and place
In hopes of a possible date,
Picture the idea of being in your embrace.

forced rhyme

sentence
structure
within
stanzas is
simplistic -
structures don't
suggest control
of more complex
structures

After the first meeting
Laughing and flirting,
We slowly come closer and end up kissing.

issues with
"time" of
poem

Your smooth skin and soft hands give me chills
Like a roller coaster ride,
Each one provides the most powerful thrills.

attempts to use
figurative language -
seems forced

lapses
in
focus

With baseball and college keeping me stressed
Day in and day out,
The way you treat me keeps my mind at rest.

Simile doesn't
further understanding

Poem is full of
attempts

last stanza
continues
lapse

Your delightful smile, your devilish smirk, imprecise
Especially your little giggles, use of
Remind me everyday that our bond is worth the work. language

Notes

This poem is fairly typical of poems found within the writing portfolio. By analyzing this poem, teachers may identify some areas of focus during poetry instruction.

This sample could be used to teach

- the need for the appropriate use of rhyme;
How the use of forced rhyme may contribute to lapses in focus;
- the need for the effective use of figurative language;
- the use of sound devices within a poem; teachers and students might draw conclusions about the level of success of the students' use of alliteration, assonance, consonance.

Masterpiece

Layer by layer,
The washes are added;
The strokes are layered,
Molding features,
Adding textures,
Giving life
To paper and pigment.
A familiar face, shape, and pair of hands
Slowly appear and merge
-To-become-
You--
My sister
Cradling the cat you rescued and
Begged Mama to keep,
Whose eyes say
He'd rather be hunting for birds
And pouncing on grasshoppers
Than restricted by your twelve-year-old embrace.
Your eyes glisten,
And I smile back
My mind already dreaming of you hanging over the mantle
As Mama says,
"You got her just right."
Then, suddenly,
A mistake.
Two brown spots
Turn into a big gray line
As I rush to cover them
With white paint.
Panic grips me.
Blotting and blotting,
I think
They won't come out--
My nightmare.
I tell you I'm sorry
And your eyes smile back.
In time,
My attempts at correction
Thinly disguise the blots as shadow
But tauntingly they stare back at me
From just above your upper lip,
Ever present
Scourges
On my would-have-been
Masterpiece.

2008 Grade 12 Poem #2
Annotated

Multiple examples of alliteration throughout poem

Masterpiece — title suggests something about purpose / focus

Layer by layer,
The washes are added;
The strokes are layered.
Molding features,
Adding textures,
Giving life

parallel structures
details reflect process of painting

purpose of poem — examination of the creative process — told in narrative form

transition from painting to person

To paper and pigment.
A familiar face, shape, and pair of hands
Slowly appear and merge
To become —
You —

purposeful pauses created by line breaks — enhance meaning (convention of poetry)

My sister
Cradling the cat you rescued and
Begged Mama to keep,
Whose eyes say
He'd rather be hunting for birds
And pouncing on grasshoppers
Than restricted by your twelve-year-old embrace
Your eyes glisten
And I smile back

strong images — precise word choice

sections of poem show purposeful structure

My mind already dreaming of you hanging over the mantle
As Mama says,
"You got her just right."
Then, suddenly,
A mistake.

use of quotation adds voice and connects with reader

Two brown spots
Turn into a big gray line
As I rush to cover them
With white paint.

Panic grips me.
Blotting and blotting
I think

purposeful repetition

They won't come out —
My nightmare.
I tell you I'm sorry
And your eyes smile back.

poem demonstrates control of sentence structure and purposeful use of a variety of structures to enhance meaning

In time,
My attempts at correction
Thinly disguise the blots as shadow
But tauntingly they stare back at me
From just above your upper lip,
Ever present

examples of personification

Scourges

On my would-have-been
Masterpiece.

precise word choice
alliteration, and assonance

organization / structure is purposeful through — sections of poem move from creating to describing back to creating

conclusion of poem returns to purpose and title; shows insight and reflection